

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 24, which starts with:

“FIG. 4(a)-(c) is a cross-sectional view of several shapes of an elongated member of the introduction guide member in accordance with the present invention;”.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 26, with the following amended paragraph:

The introduction guide member 20, that assists in distending the vaginal cavity, is illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 4. The introduction guide member 20 preferably includes a guide head 32, an elongated member 22, a support member 23, and a handle 24 at a rear end 26. The guide head 32 includes a tapered-edge nose cone portion 30 integrally formed with a cylinder portion 36. A first leading edge of the nose cone portion 30 is preferably flat so that the user will not be injured by a sharp or pointed edge during insertion. The nose cone portion 30 includes a taper which is generally aligned with tapered edge 8 of tube 2 to create a sufficiently smooth transition between these elements and provide for comfortable and easy insertion of the introduction guide member 20 into the vaginal cavity. The taper of the tapered edge 8 and guide head 32 may range from 25 to 45 degrees relative to the outer surface of the tube 2. In a preferred embodiment, the tapered edge 8 and guide head 32 is approximately 30 degrees. The nose cone portion 30 and cylinder portion 36 are preferably one solid piece formed of plastic material. The guide head 32 preferably has a diameter slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the vaginal insertion tube 2 to allow the introduction guide member 20 to slide, and rotate, if desired, within the vaginal insertion tube 2. A penetrating tubular opening 28 extends through the nose cone portion 30 and the cylinder portion 36 to create a passageway for fluids to pass through the guide head 32 during insertion. The elongated member 22 extends between the guide head 32 and the handle 24 and is aligned with the guide head 32 along the center axis 35 of the introduction guide member 20. As shown in FIGS. 4(a)-(e)8 and 9, the elongated member 22 preferably has a “X” or cross shaped section but, may be other shapes or cross-sections, such as a square, rectangle, or circle. A passageway may be formed in the elongated member 22 and aligned with the tubular opening 28 to allow fluids to pass through the guide head 32 and out of the assembly 10. This feature allows for easier insertion of the vaginal insertion tube 2 by reducing pressure in the

vaginal cavity as a result of providing an open passageway from the forward face of the guide head 32 to the trailing face of the rear end 26 which permits fluid to exit the vaginal cavity through the introduction guide member 20. In a preferred embodiment, the introduction guide member 20 includes at least one support member 23 integrally formed with the elongated member 22. The support member 23 assists in providing lateral stability to the introduction guide member 20 and assists in aligning the guide member 20, when the guide member 20 is inserted into the vaginal insertion tube 2. Alternatively, the support member 23 may be eliminated and the cylinder portion 36 of the guide head 32 may be extended towards the rear end 26. The length of the cylinder portion 36 would be sufficient to provide stability and alignment of the introduction guide member 20 within the tube 2. The length of the cylinder portion may be between 1 to 1.50 inches.